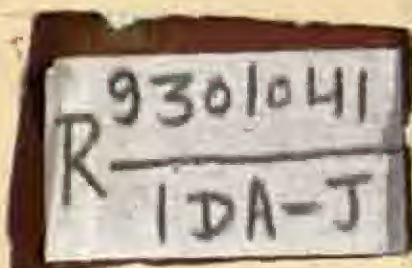


**INVENTORY
OF
MONUMENTS AND SITES
OF
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

(VOL. VII, PART 3)



THRISSUR CIRCLE



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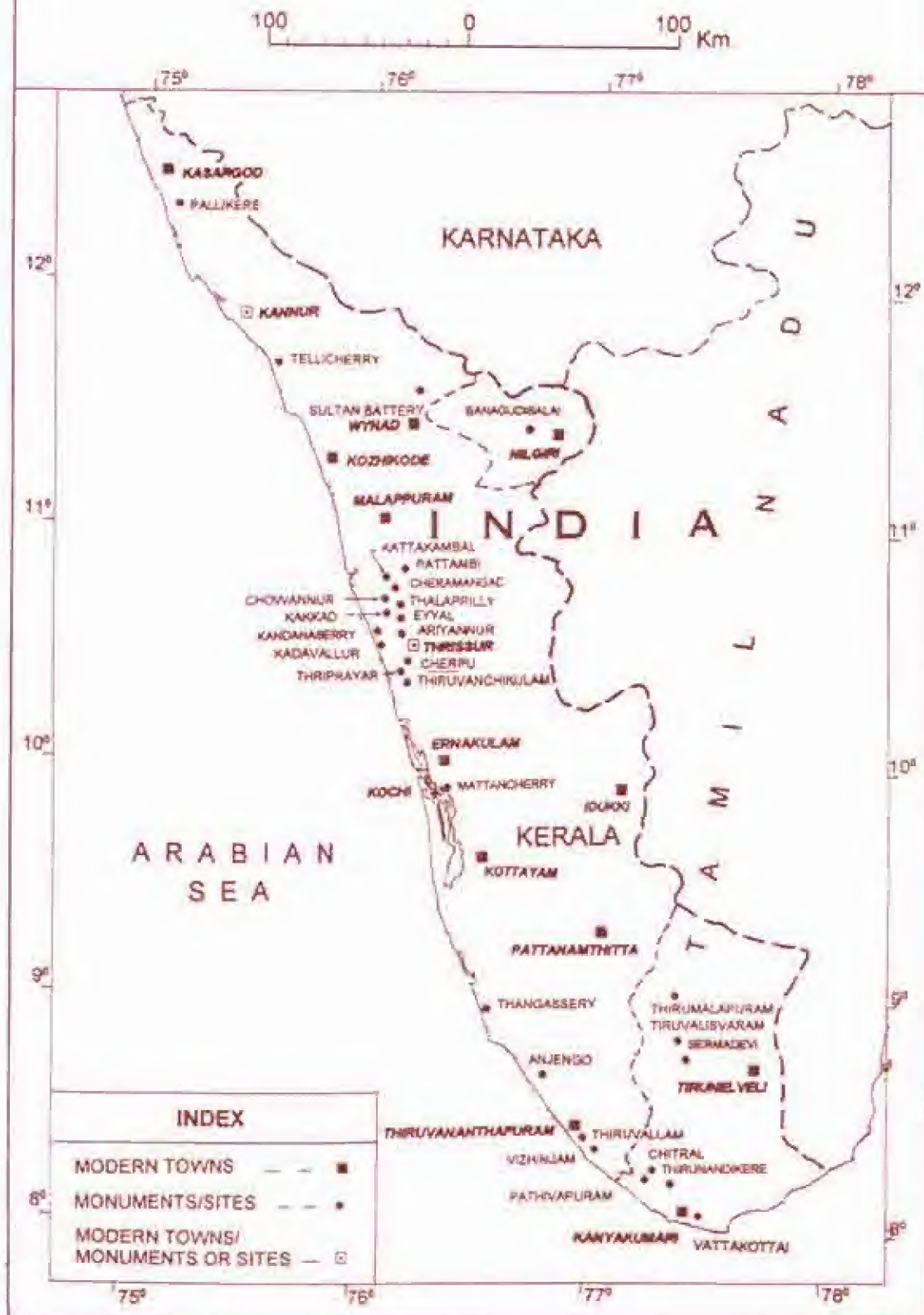
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PRINCIPAL MONUMENTS AND SITES IN THRISSUR CIRCLE



Kewal Singh

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- The territorial waters of India extend in to the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

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INDU PRAKASH

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PREFACE

It was proposed that during the 50th year of Independence of India, an Inventory of Monuments and Sites of National Importance under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) be prepared and published. ASI has a list of the centrally protected monuments and sites. It was felt that it would be better to have an inventory with some details of monuments and sites along with their plans and photographs so that it could cater to the needs of the heritage administrators, scholars and tourists. Since the collection of data in the desired format with latest illustrations have been taking considerable time due to the distance, inaccessible location of the monuments/sites and prevailing conditions in the area, it has been decided to bring out the Inventory in seven volumes in different parts. As this volume was in press three more Circles, i.e., Dehradun, Ranchi and Raipur have been created and accordingly, three more parts have now been added. Vol. 1, Part 1 Srinagar Circle Vol. 1, Part 2, Chandigarh Circle and Part 3, Delhi Circle have already been published. Vol. VII, Part 3 is Thrissur Circle which is placed before the readers. The other volumes proposed are as below:

Vol. II	Part 1	Jaipur Circle
	Part 2	Vadodara Circle
Vol. III	Part 1	Agra Circle
	Part 2	Dehradun Circle
	Part 3	Lucknow Circle
Vol. IV	Part 1	Patna Circle
	Part 2	Ranchi Circle
	Part 3	Kolkata Circle
	Part 4	Bhubaneswar Circle
	Part 5	Raipur Circle
	Part 6	Guwahati Circle
Vol. V	Part 1	Bhopal Circle
	Part 2	Aurangabad Circle
	Part 3	Goa Mini Circle
Vol. VI	Part 1	Dharwar Circle
	Part 2	Bangalore Circle
Vol. VII	Part 1	Hyderabad Circle
	Part 2	Chennai Circle

Since the compilation involved collection of data and editing of the material, a committee for the preparation of the Inventory was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Jagat Pati Joshi, former Director General of ASI and late Krishna Deva, former Director, ASI as the advisor of the project. Dr. R.C. Agrawal, the then Director, co-ordinated the project and Dr. P.K. Trivedi as a member of the committee rendered valuable help. Shri T. Satyamurthy, the then Superintending Archaeologist, Thrissur Circle collected all the basic data regarding the monuments/sites in the Circle and sent it along with illustrations. His successor Sh. K.K. Ramamurthy also rendered valuable help in finalization of the manuscript.

In the preparation of the Inventory, valuable assistance was received from Sarvashri Krishna, K. P. Mohandas and Ms. K. Lekshmi and S. Joshua of Thrissur Circle and Rajendra Yadav, Kumaran C and Kewal Singh in checking the co-ordinates of the monuments/sites and compiling the data and preparing the map. Besides, Capt. P.R. Prasad, the then Officer-in-charge, Electronic Data Processing Unit of the ASI provided all support and Ms. Anjali Negi and Mamta Rawat handled the computer. All of them deserve my thanks.

The project has received part financial assistance from the Secretariat for Commemoration of 50th year of India's Independence, Government of India, which is gratefully acknowledged. I thank Dr. B.R. Mani, Director, Dr. Arundhati Banerji, Superintending Archaeologist, Shri Hoshier Singh, Production Officer, Dr. Piyush Bhatt, Shri Gunjan Kumar Srivastava, Assistant Archaeologists of the Publication Section of the ASI for seeing it through the press.

NEW DELHI

17th July, 2006

C. BABU RAJEEV

DIRECTOR GENERAL

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INTRODUCTION

Kerala occupies a narrow strip of land, not more than 555 km in length, on western seaboard of peninsular India, roughly between the latitudes of 8° 17' and 12° 47' N. Washed by the Arabian Sea on the west and flanked by the hill ranges of the Western Ghats on the east, it has the maximum width of only 120 km. Geographically, its length covers most of the Malabar coast; and the name Malabar seems to have some association with Malainadu ('land of hills') of the medieval Tamil writers. The term Malayalam, the indigenous word for denoting the country, appears to be the compound of two words *malai* ('mountain') and *alam* ('depth')¹.

The region lies between the Sahyadris and the Arabian Sea. It is a lowland interspersed by hills having in its landscape alluvial tracts along the rivers, sandy beaches, mud flats and sand-dunes, *terris*, lateritic platforms, lagoons and back waters having swift flowing rivulets. It has patches of tropical evergreen forest, coconut groves and cashurina plantations².

In ancient times, the country was known as Kerala or alternatively, the land of Cheras. The second rock-edict of Asoka (circa 273-36 B. C.) refers to Keralaputras along with the Cholas, Pandyas and Satiyaputras (perhaps the Atiyamans of Kongu region) as the border kingdoms of the Mauryan empire. In the first century A. D., Pliny, the Roman historian, refers to the rulers of Kerala as Caelogbothras, while the unknown author of the *Periplus of the erythraean sea*, of the same period, mentions it as Cerobothra. During this period, Muziris generally identified with Cranganur (Kodungallur), District Thrissur, was most important of the several ports of the west coast, frequented by foreign ships, laden with merchandise. Ptolemy, the geographer of the second century, mentions the country as Kerobothros. In the contemporary Tamil literature, Kerala is invariably referred to as the Chera country, and there is ample evidence to show that the Cheras rose to prominence along with the Cholas and the Pandyas during the first three centuries of the Christian era. The Cheras continued to wield power, with short interregnums, till the beginning of the twelfth century and the unification of Kerala under the second Chera dynasty constituted a short-lived episode. The later history of Kerala is marked by a few landmarks, the first being the arrival of the Portuguese in 1498 when Kerala was ruled by the Venadu ruler in the south, the powerful Zamorin of Calicut (now Kozhikode) in the central part and the Kolatiri chief on the north. The interests of the Zamorin who controlled the spice-trade and the shipping of the west coast were bound to clash with the rising power of the Portuguese until the Dutch arrived on the scene in circa 1604 A.D., intent on their share of the loaf, followed shortly by the British. Thereafter, Martanda Varma rose as a new star on the firmament of Kerala and inflicted in 1741 a humiliating defeat on the Dutch. There followed the invasions of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan, which devastated the land. Later, the British brought Kerala, divided into the

¹ H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi 1992).

² B. L. Singh, *India, A Regional Geography* (Varanasi 1971) p. 907-11.

princely states of Travancore and Kochi as vassals under their control. The final unification of the Malayalam country was brought about in 1956 when the Kerala state was formed as part of the Indian Union.

There are thirty-six monuments under the Thrissur Circle also including ten monuments of adjoining districts of the state of Tamil Nadu which date from the Megalithic to the British period. The most remarkable monuments protected under Archaeological Survey of India are Megalithic burial caves, early rock-cut Jaina shrines with beds at Chitral, Siva temple-complex at Thiruvanchikulam, Siva temple at Peruvanam, Ten Kailasanatha temple at Thrissur, Parthasarathi and Krishna temples at Parthivapuram, St. Francis Church, Mattancherry palace having excellent Ramayana and Krishna -lila paintings, Bekal fort, Palghat fort and the Jaina temple at Kidanganad.

Of the variety of monuments mentioned above, the temples are notable as constituting the pivot of the social and religious life of Kerala. The regional temples reveal a distinctive style forming a local adaptation of the Dravida or South Indian tradition, influenced by several geographical factors like heavy rainfall, availability of laterite formation and dense forests. This style differs from the main Dravida tradition in having sloping roofs with gable ends and abundant use of laterite in walls and timber in superstructure, besides a preference for circular plan.

While Kerala shares many features with Tamil Nadu in respect of the art of stone and bronze sculpture, it excels all schools of painting which adorned the interior of many a temple, besides the famous Mattancherry palace. During the nineteenth century, Ravi Varma, a prince of the house of Travancore, departed from the traditional method and became known as a painter of portraits and classical themes in the western oil medium.

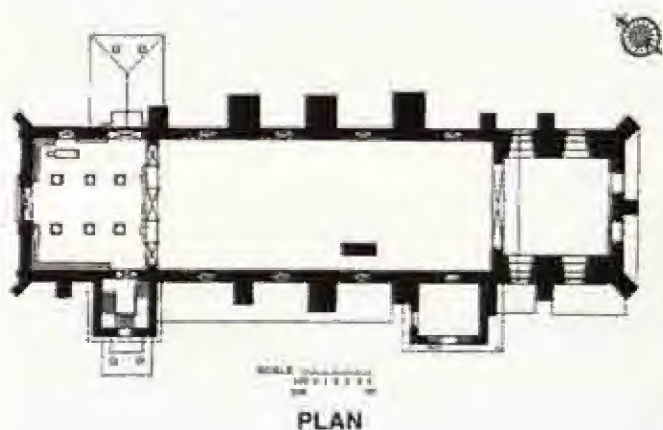
From sixteenth century onwards, many dynasts of the princely states of Kochi and Travancore were also noted for their patronage of arts and letters. Some princes were themselves distinguished poets and scholars of Sanskrit. Under their patronage were produced many works on religion, philosophy, poetics and other subjects. Among the treatises on architecture composed in Kerala may be mentioned *Tantra Samuchchaya*, *Manushyalayachandrika* during the fifteenth century A. D. and *Silparatna* during the sixteenth century.

Kerala is also famous for its individual styles of dance drama known as Krishna-attam and Mohini-attam which generally enact classical themes.

KERALA

01 ST. FRANCIS CHURCH (KOCHI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Ernakulam; **TALUK** : Kochi
2. **LOCALITY** : Kochi (Lat. 09° 55' N; Long. 76° 15' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 71 Dated 19.03.1923.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Ernakulam; **BUS STATION** : Ernakulam
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is the earliest European church in India where Vasco da Gama was buried in A. D. 1524. Later, his mortal remains were taken to Portugal in A. D. 1538. The church, built in the new tradition, has an impressive facade with arched entrance and windows, surmounted by a bell turret over the gable front and flanked by stepped pinnacles.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is located on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Ernakulam District* (Trivandrum 1965), 2. H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (revised edition, New Delhi 1992).



02 MURAL PAINTINGS (16-17TH CENTURY ON THE WALLS OF THE MATTANCHERRY PALACE (MATTANCHERRY, KOCHI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Ernakulam; **TALUK** : Kochi
2. **LOCALITY** : Mattancherry (Lat. 09° 57' N; Long. 76° 15' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : LXXI of Act 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : AIRPORT : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Ernakulam; **BUS STATION** : Ernakulam
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Known as the Dutch Palace, it was the seat of power of the Kochi State. The Palace was constructed during sixteenth century A. D. by the Portuguese. Subsequently, the Dutch repaired it and handed it over to Kochi Maharaja. The mural paintings depicting various mythological scenes from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* represent medieval Kerala mural tradition. The mural paintings in the palace belong to three periods. The earliest are the Krishna-*Ilala* scenes depicting mostly Krishna sporting with *gopis* which are datable to the end of the sixteenth century. The largest series of murals dating from the beginning of the seventeenth century narrate the entire story of the *Ramayana* from the performance of the *putrakameshti* sacrifice for the birth of the four princes till the return of Rama, Sita and Lakshman to Ayodhya after vanquishing Ravana. The third series datable to the eighteenth century depicts various Hindu gods and goddesses.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Situated on the bank of river Kayal.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Ernakulam District* (Trivandrum 1965), 2. Shivananda Venkatarao and Raman Namboodiri, *Mattancherry Palace* (New Delhi 1997)



02 (a) Plan (First Floor) of Mattancherry Palace



02 (b) A view of Mattancherry palace

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02 (d) Mural depicting Ananthasanamurti



02 (c) Mural depicting Kumbhakarna



02 (e) Mural depicting Hanuman leaping out through the ear of Sursa

03 FORT ST. ANGELO (KANNUR)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kannur; **TALUK** : Kannur
2. **LOCALITY** : Kannur (Lat. 11° 50' N; Long. 75° 20' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 465, Dated 09.11, 1936.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Calicut; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kannur; **BUS STATION** : Kannur
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Originally constructed by the Portuguese in A. D. 1505, the Dutch captured it in A. D. 1663 and later, it passed to the British in A. D. 1772. It was an important military station in Malabar during the British period.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Ernakulam District* (Trivandrum 1965), 2. H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (revised edition, New Delhi 1992).



04 TELLICHERRY FORT (TELLICHERRY)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kannur; **TALUK** : Tellicherry
2. **LOCALITY** : Tellicherry (Lat. 11° 40' N; Long. 75° 25' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 77 Dated 28.02.1921; No. 85 Dated : 27.07.1991
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Calicut; **RAILWAY STATION** : Tellicherry; **BUS STATION** : Tellicherry
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Constructed by the English in A. D. 1708, the fort was a place of attraction for the French. Its arched entrance is partly screened by a wall and surmounted by an ornate arch flanked by two soldier guards. Dr. Gundert, the compiler of the first Malayalam-English dictionary, established a litho-printing press here to bring out copies of the Bible.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Kannur District* (Trivandrum 1972).



04 (a) Plan of Tellicherry Fort



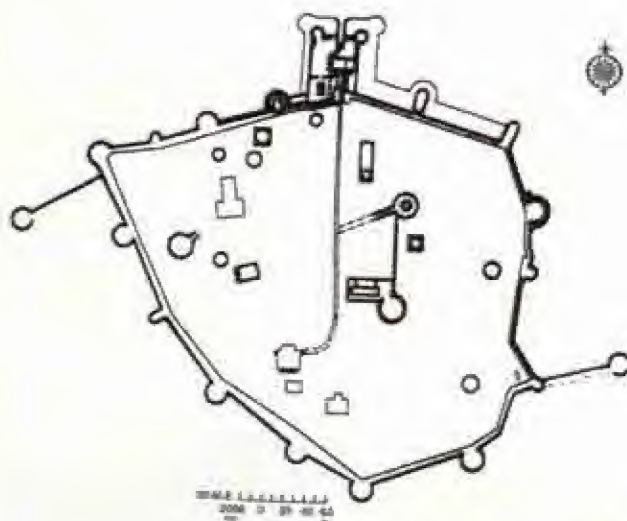
04 (b) A view of the fort



04 (c) An inside view of the fort

05 BEKAL FORT (PALLIKERE)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kasargode; **TALUK** : Kanhangad
2. **LOCALITY** : Pallikere (Lat. 12° 23' N; Long. 75° 02' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 85 Dated 27.07.1921.
4. **APPROACH** : AIRPORT : Calicut; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kanhangad; **BUS STATION** : Pallikere
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : The Ikkeri Nayaks (A. D. 1500-1763) were responsible for the construction of the fort. Roughly polygonal on plan, a bastion is perched right on the seashore. It was occupied by Hyder Ali for a short period in A. D. 1763. It is possibly the largest surviving fort of Kerala.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Ernakulam District* (Trivandrum 1965), (2) H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (revised edition, New Delhi 1992).



05 (a) Plan of Bekal Fort



05 (b) A view of the Bekal Fort



05 (c) General view of the seashore bastion



05 (d) Western view of the fort

06 REMAINS OF FORT (THANGASSERY)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kollam; **TALUK** : Kollam
2. **LOCALITY** : Thangassery (Lat. 08° 50' N; Long. 76° 30' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 36 Dated 14.12.1920.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kollam;
BUS STATION: Thangassery
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : It was associated with the Chinese trade during the first millennium A.D., and later, it was a bone of contention between the Portuguese, Dutch and the British. The existing remains form the contribution of the Portuguese and Dutch before A.D. 1795, when the English took it over.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : A. Shreedhara Menon (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Kollam District* (Trivandrum 1964).



07 PALAKKAD FORT (YAKKARADESAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Palakkad; **TALUK** : Palakkad
2. **LOCALITY** : Yakkaradesam (Palakkad) (Lat. 10° 16' N; Long. 76° 36' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 77 Dated 28.02.1921.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Coimbatore; **RAILWAY STATION** : Palakkad; **BUS STATION** : Palakkad.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Square on plan with moat all around, the fort having thick walls and strong bastions, built of long blocks of granite, dates from A. D. 1766. Hyder Ali built it with a view to facilitate communications. It was temporarily occupied by the Zamorins and finally by the English in A. D. 1790.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) C. K. Kareem (ed.), *Kerala Gazetteer, Palakkad District* (Emakulam 1973), (2) H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (revised edition, New Delhi 1992).



07 (a) Plan of Palaghat Fort



07 (b) A view of the fort



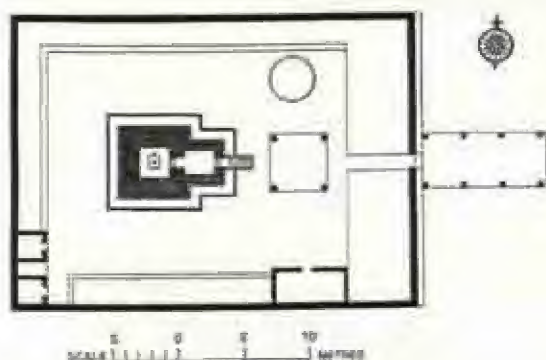
07 (c) Another view of the fort



07 (d) A view of the north-east bastion

08 SIVA TEMPLE AT NETRIMANGALAM (PATTAMBI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Palakkad; **TALUK** : Ottappalam
2. **LOCALITY** : Pattambi (Lat. 10° 46' N; Long. 76° 11' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : No. 2/36/76/M Dated 06.03.1982.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Calicut; **RAILWAY STATION** : Pattambi; **BUS STATION** : Pattambi
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : It is an unfinished temple of granite upto cornice with later two-storeyed superstructure of laterite having a tiled pyramidal *sikhara*. In front has recently been added a *namaskara-mandapa* and to the north, a modest circular Krishna temple. The stone *vimana* upto cornice level of this temple is a good specimen of the early mainland architecture in Kerala datable to *circa* ninth-tenth century A. D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



08 (a) Plan of Siva Temple



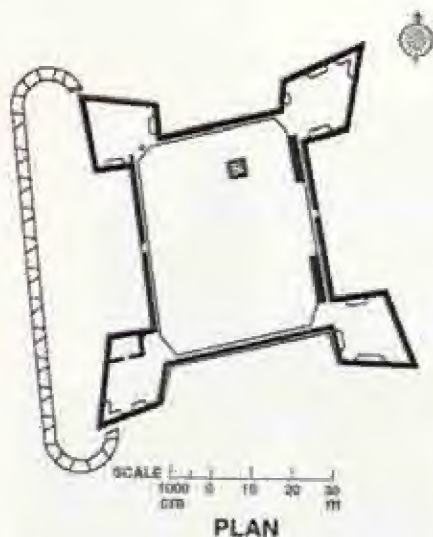
08 (b) General view of the Siva Temple



08 (c) General view of Srikoil Siva Temple of Netrimangalam (Pattambi)

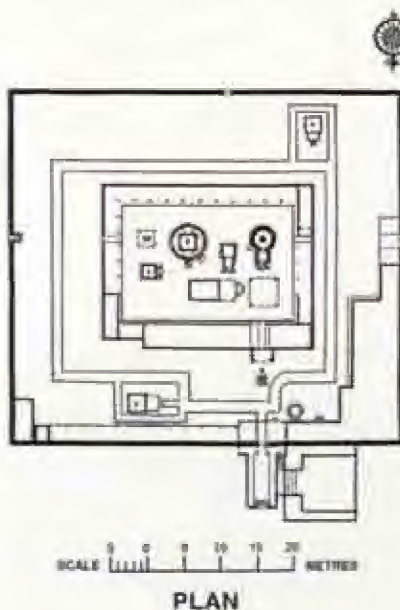
09 ANJENGO FORT (ANJENGO)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **TALUK** : Chirayinkil
2. **LOCALITY** : Anjengo (Lat. 08° 40' N; Long. 76° 45' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 36 Dated 20.01.1921.
4. **APPROACH : AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kadakkavur;
BUS STATION : Kadakkavur
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Erected by the East India Company in A. D. 1695 on the land donated by the Queen of Attingal, it was the first signaling station for the English ships during seventeenth-eighteenth century A. D. It was also an important depot for military stores during the Karnataka wars.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is situated on the western coast.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) H. Sarkar, *Monuments of Kerala* (revised edition, New Delhi 1992), (2) N. Rajendran, *British in Malabar* (Trivandrum 1967).



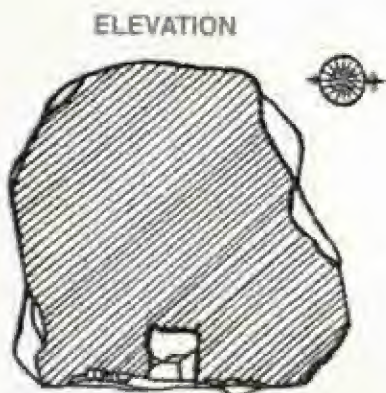
10 THE TEMPLES OF PARASURAMA, BRAHMA, SIVA AND MATSYA (THIRUVALLAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **TALUK** : Thiruvananthapuram
2. **LOCALITY** : Thiruvallam (Lat. 08° 27' N; Long. 76° 57' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4-1/62-C. 1 Dated 12.11.1962.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thiruvananthapuram;
BUS STATION : Thiruvallam
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : The Parasurama temple is the earliest among the shrines in the complex. This is an apsidal *vimana* of the late Chola period, probably only one of its type in Kerala. The Parasurama and Brahma temples are datable to the thirteenth century A. D. while those of Siva and Matsya to the sixteenth century A. D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the bank of river Karamana.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Thiruvithamkur Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



11 ROCK CUT CAVE (VIZHINJAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **TALUK** : Thiruvananthapuram
2. **LOCALITY** : Vizhinjam (Lat. 08° 27' N; Long. 76° 59' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4/15/64-C. I Dated 12.02.1965.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thiruvananthapuram;
BUS STATION : Vizhinjam
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This rock cut cave excavated in a boulder is located at Vizhinjam, also spelt as 'Vilinjham' capital of the Ay dynasty. Stylistically the cave with its carved sculptures of Siva as Kirata and Siva-Parvati, has some affinity to the Pallava and Pandya models and is datable to circa eighth century A.D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : It is located on the bank of river Karamana.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Thiruvithamkur Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).

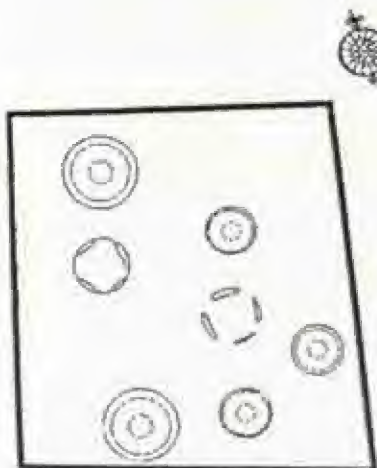


SKETCH PLAN



12 ARIYANNUR UMBRELLAS (ARIYANNUR)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Ariyannur (Lat. 10° 37' N; Long. 76° 05' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Guruvayur; **BUS STATION** : Guruvayur.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : It is a megalithic monument with huge umbrella-like stones (*topikal*) covering the burial.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1992).

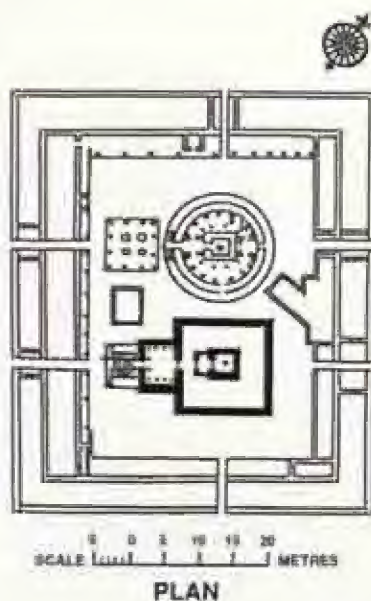


SKETCH PLAN



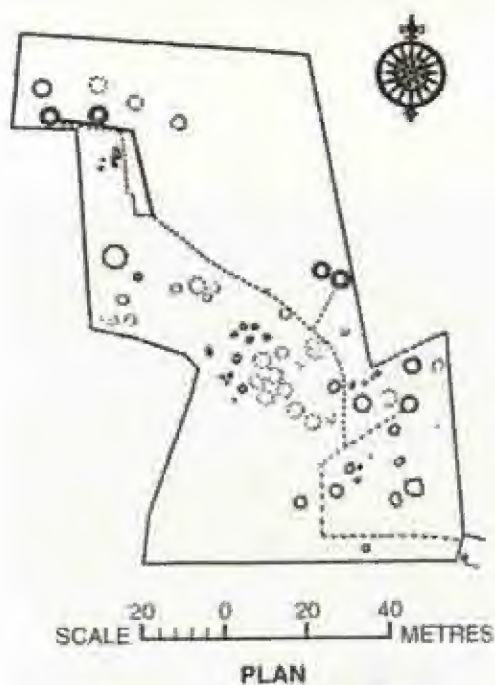
13 SIVA TEMPLE, PERUVANAM (CHERPU)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thrissur
2. **LOCALITY** : Cherpu (Lat. 10° 26' N; Long. 76° 12' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : S. O. 2249 Dated 09.06.1982.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Thrissur.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Among the two shrines in the temple complex, the Madattilappan shrine is the most outstanding model of *tritala vimana* of Madakovil of South India. The other shrine Irattilyappan is a circular *vimana* of the Dravida-Kerala type. The wall-paintings of the latter represent the mural tradition of the late medieval period. Both temples are assignable to the eleventh century A. D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978), (2) M. W. Meister (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



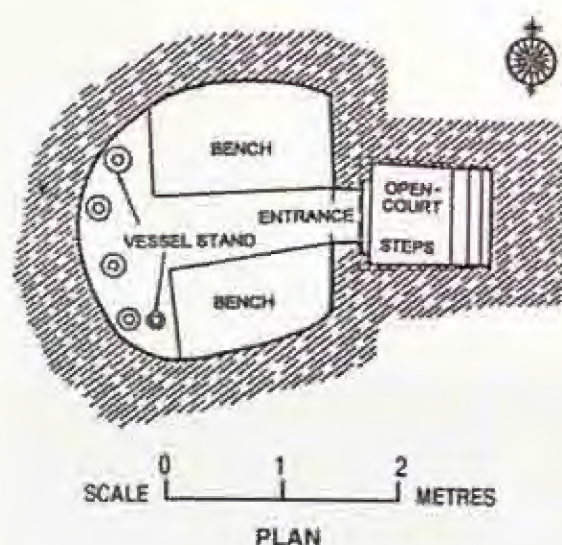
14 KUDAKKALLU PARAMBU (CHERAMANAGAD)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Cheramanagad (Lat. 10° 41' N; Long. 76° 07' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnamkulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : A burial site where many types of megaliths are noticed. There are numerous burials including the types like umbrella stone, hood stone, multiple hood stone, *topikal* and menhir.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1992).



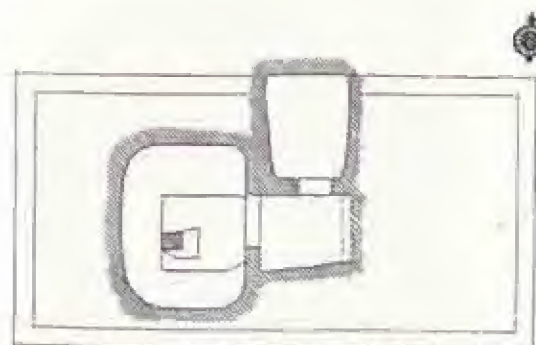
15 BURIAL CAVE (CHOWANNUR)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Chowannur (Lat. 10° 40' N; Long. 76° 01' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a megalithic rock-cut cave site. It is entered through a recessed opening on the east. The other sides of its chamber are circular and its vault hemispherical. On its northern and southern sides are two benches and there are five circular blocks along the western side of the chamber, which appear to be intended as stands for vessels.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government.
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : Y. D. Sharma, 'Rock cut Caves in Cochin', *Ancient India*, No. 12.



16 BURIAL CAVE (EYYAL)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Eyyal (Lat. 10° 39' N; Long. 76° 07' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a double-chambered megalithic burial cave excavated in a laterite boulder. The chamber has no central pillar but a bench is provided with an irregular width, which runs along all sides except where the entrance is situated. It also has a wide pedestal-like base probably for its central pillar. Near the site were unearthed Roman coins of the Republican period datable to first century A.D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Rocky terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1992), (2) Y. D. Sharma, 'Rock cut caves in Cochin', *Ancient India* No.12



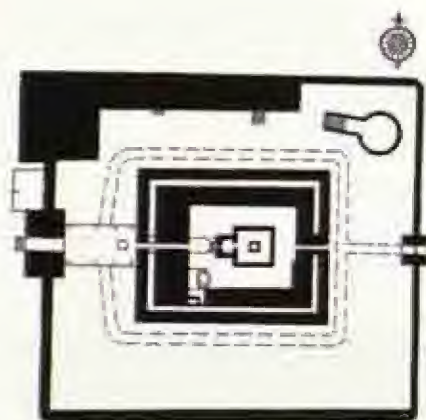
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PLAN



17 **TWENTY-NINE WOODEN IMAGES ON THE OUTER WALLS OF THE SRIKOIL OF THE VISHNU TEMPLE AND OTHER WORKS OF ART IN THE SAME SHRINE (KADAVALLUR)**

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Kadavallur (Lat. 10° 42' N; Long. 76° 03' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This Vishnu temple dedicated to Rama was a significant centre for Vedic studies in ancient India and continues to be so. The temple is square and belongs to the Kerala architectural style of thirteenth century A. D. and is adorned with wooden bracket images on its walls.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : K. V. Sundararajan, *Temple Architecture in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1974).

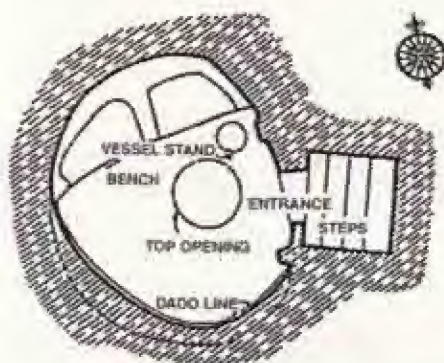


SKETCH PLAN



18 BURIAL CAVE KAKKAD (KUNNAMKULAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Kakkad (Kunnamkulam) (Lat. 10° 15' N; Long. 76° 19' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnamkulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a rock-cut burial site of the Megalithic culture. It has a narrow entrance on the east, accessed by a flight of steps. The cave is dome-shaped and paraboloid on plan with almost straight edge on the entrance side. Running along the northern side, there is a single sectoral bench, to the south of which is a rock cut circular block. Its unusual features indicate its later date.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Rocky terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala*, (Thiruvananthapuram 1992). (2) Y. D. Sharma, 'Rock cut Caves in Cochin', *Ancient India*, No.12



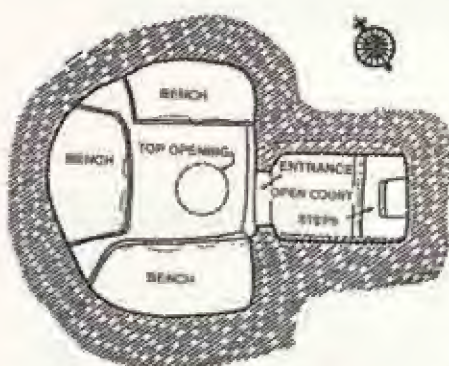
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PLAN



19 BURIAL CAVE (KANDANASSERY)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Kandanassery (Lat. 10° 35' N; Long. 76° 04' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a rock-cut burial site of the Iron age. The chamber, entered through a recessed opening, has a hemispherical dome and paraboloid floor. It has a bench cut out of the rock on all its sides except at the entrance.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Rocky terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1992). (2) Y. D. Sharma, 'Rock cut Caves in Cochin', *Ancient India*, No. 12



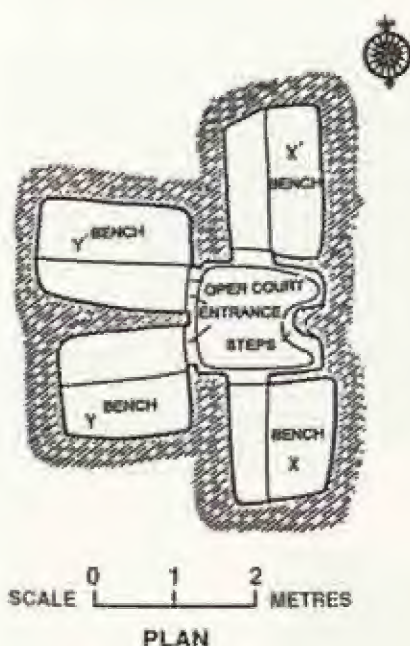
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PLAN



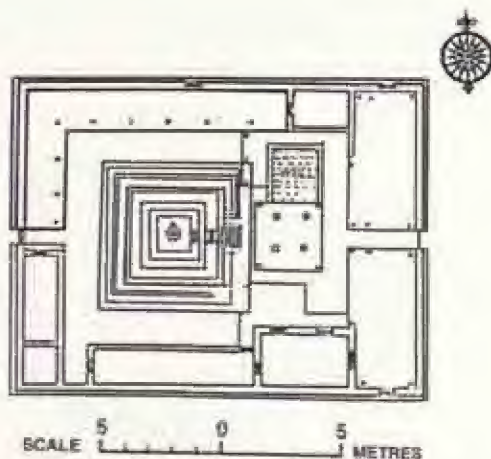
20 BURIAL CAVE (KATTAKAMBAL)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Kattakambal (Lat. 10° 40' N; Long. 76° 25' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : Act No. LXXI of 1951, Dated 28.11.1951.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a rock-cut burial cave site of the Megalithic age. It is multi-chambered cave, each chamber provided with a bench cut out of the rock. The floors are rectangular and ceilings horizontal.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Rocky terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) T. Satyamurthy, *Iron Age in Kerala* (Thiruvananthapuram 1992). (2) Y. D. Sharma, 'Rock cut Caves in Cochin', *Ancient India*, No.12



21 SIVA TEMPLE (PALLIMANAH)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Pallimanah (Lat. 10° 41' N; Long. 76° 14' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : No. 24/2/79-M Dated 10.01.1983.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Wadakkancherry.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This square temple, dedicated to Siva, has a significant painted verse stating the date of renovation of the temple in A.D. 1691. Among the mural paintings on the temple, the panels depicting Rama's coronation and Siva with Mohini are noteworthy.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : V.R. Chitra and T.N. Srinivasan, *Cochin Murals* (Cochin 1940).



21 (a) Plan of Siva Temple



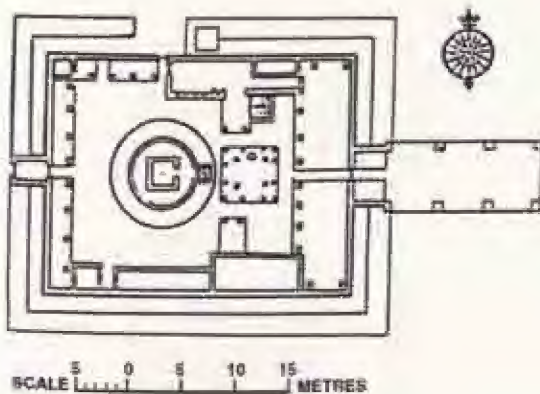
21 (b) A view of the temple showing murals



21 (c) General view from the north-west

22 SIVA TEMPLE (CHEMMANTHITTA, THALAPPILLY)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Thalappilly
2. **LOCALITY** : Chemmanthitta, Thalappilly (Lat. 10° 35' N; Long. 76° 05' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : S. O. 449 Dated 06.02.1982.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Kunnankulam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : It is a circular Siva temple in Dravida-Kerala style with conical roof covered with copper plates. The mural paintings on the outer wall of the *garbhagriha* are excellent specimens of the mural art of seventeenth-eighteenth century A.D.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain,
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Uramma Devaswom
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



22 (a) Plan of Siva Temple



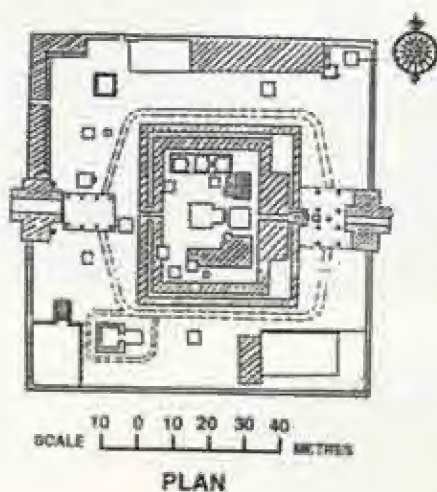
22 (b) General view of the temple



22 (c) Front view of the temple

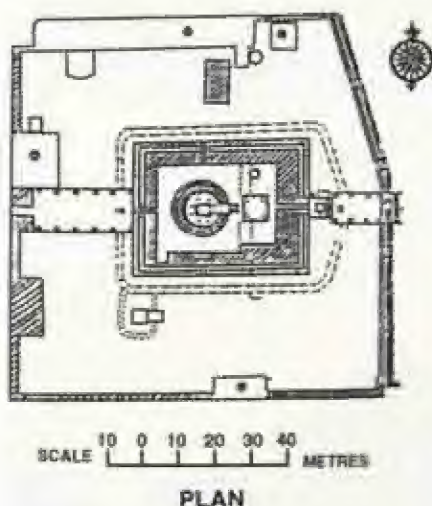
23 SIVA TEMPLE COMPLEX (THIRUVANCHIKULAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Kodungallur
2. **LOCALITY** : Thiruvanchikulam, Thalappilly (Lat. 10° 12' N; Long. 76° 12' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : No. 24/2/78-M Dated 09.06.1982.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur/Chalakudy; **BUS STATION** : Kodungallur.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is the holiest shrine for the Saivites of South India with the association of Sundaramurti Nayanara and the king Cheramanperumal of the ninth century A.D. The *vimana* is modelled after the temple style. The temple consists of a *sandhara* square *garbhagriha* preceded by a narrow *mukhamandapa* axially followed by a *namaskara-mandapa*. The *garbhagriha* carries a *dvitula vimana*. The original shrine was a brick temple reconditioned during the tenth-eleventh century A.D. The walls of the Siva temple are decorated with mural paintings of sixteenth-seventeenth century.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978). (2) M.W. Meister (ed), *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



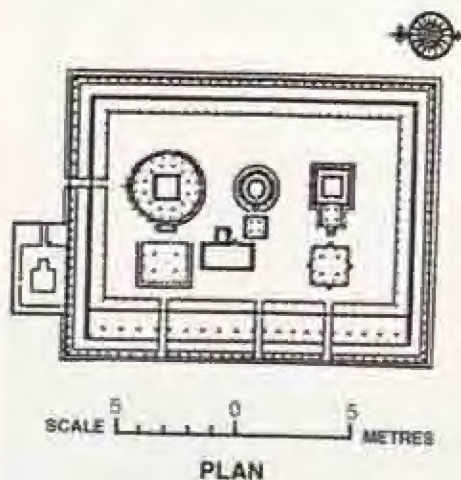
24 MURAL PAINTINGS ON THE WALLS OF THE SRI RAMASWAMI TEMPLE (THRIPRAYAR)

1. **DISTRICT** : Thrissur; **TALUK** : Chavakkad
2. **LOCALITY** : Thriprayar (Lat. 10° 24' N; Long. 76° 06' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : No. 24/1/78-M Dated 05.06.1982.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION** : Thrissur; **BUS STATION** : Thriprayar.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This Vaisnavite temple, dedicated to Rama, is a typical Dravida-Kerala *vimana* datable to twelfth century A.D.. The mural paintings on the walls of the *garbhagriha* and the wood carvings are excellent art works of the seventeenth-eighteenth century A.D.. Like the Vadakkumnatha, this temple is externally circular with a square *namaskara mandapa* which is supported by four outer and twelve inner pillars. The temple has an *ekatala vimana* built on a massive granite base and is crowned by a conical roof covered with copper sheets. The *namaskara mandapa* also carries a similar roof.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is located in the pluvial plain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978), (2) M.W. Meister (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



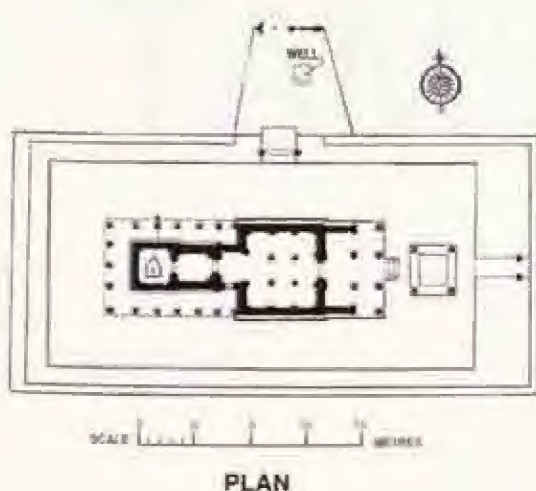
25 TENKAILASANATHA TEMPLE (VADAKKUNNATHA, THRISSUR)

1. **DISTRICT :** Thrissur; **TALUK :** Thrissur
2. **LOCALITY :** Vadakkunnatha, Thrissur (Lat. 10° 30' N; Long. 76° 10' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO. :** S. O. 1786 Dated 03.05.1982.
4. **APPROACH : AIRPORT :** Kochi; **RAILWAY STATION :** Thrissur; **BUS STATION :** Thrissur.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY :** This is a typical temple representing the Kerala-Dravida style. Here, two circular and one square *vimana* in the first *prakara* together with *Namaskara mandapa*, *balipitha* and *gopura-dvaras* represent a complete Kerala temple complex. datable to *circa* twelfth century A. D. The most important is the northernmost circular *sandhara* temple of Vadakkumnatha (Siva), followed by smaller circular shrine of Sankaranarayana while the square Rama temple is further south. The Vadakkumnatha is a circular *ekatala vimana*, with a conical roof covered with copper sheets. Its interior has two rows of twelve and sixteen pillars surrounding the sanctum proper. The walls of the Kailasanatha temple are decorated with excellent mural paintings of sixteenth-seventeenth century.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is located in the middle of the Thrissur town on elevated land.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Kochi Devaswom Board
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978). (2) M.W. Meister (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



26 JAINA TEMPLE (SULTAN BATTERY)

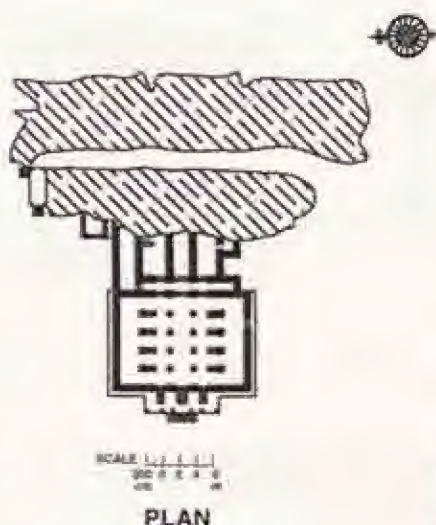
1. **DISTRICT** : Wynad; **TALUK** : Kidanganadu
2. **LOCALITY** : Sultan Battery (Kidanganadu) (Lat. 11° 39' N; Long. 76° 15' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 77 Dated 23.02.1921.
4. **APPROACH** : AIRPORT : Calicut; **RAILWAY STATION** : Calicut; **BUS STATION** : Sultan Battery.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : The present Jaina temple, represents the remains of a large Jaina Basadi datable to the fourteenth century A.D. The temple resembles the late Chola *vimanas* and consists of a square *garbhagriha*, *ardhamandapa*, closed *mahamandapa* and a detached portico. Originally, the temple was enclosed by a cloister, which is in ruins.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



TAMIL NADU

27 BHAGAWATI TEMPLE (CHITRAL)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kanyakumari; **TALUK** : Vilavancode
2. **LOCALITY** : Chitral (Lat. 08° 15' N; Long. 77° 15' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4/35/63-C.1 Dated 28.04.1964.
4. **APPROACH : AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kuzhithurai;
BUS STATION : Marthandam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a complex of two monuments. The earlier one is a rock-cut Jaina structure having beds with inscriptions and drip-ledges which constitute the earliest Jaina art vestiges of the southernmost part of Peninsular India. These monuments date from first century B. C. to sixth century A.D. The Jaina reliefs may represent the later phase. The Bhagavati temple was added during the early medieval period.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : The area bounded by low hills.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : T.A. Gopinath Rao, *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II (Trivandrum 1920).



28 ROCK-AMIDST SEA WHERE SWAMI VIVEKANANDA MEDITATED (KANYAKUMARI BEACH)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kanyakumari; **TALUK** : Agastheeswaram
2. **LOCALITY** : Kanyakumari beach (Lat. 8° 2" N; Long. 77° 33' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : S.O. 600(E) Dated 26.05.2003 (Prelim.)
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kanyakumari;
BUS STATION : Kanyakumari.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This memorial is on two rocky islands projecting from the sea about 400m offshore. Swami Vivekananda came here in 1892 and sat on the rock meditating, before setting out as one of the India's most important religious crusaders. The *mandapam* which stands here in his memory, was built in 1970 and reflects architectural styles from all over India.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : The rock is located mid-sea at the juncture of Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Vivekananda Kendra Trust/Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : M. Gopalakrisnan, *Trivendrum District Gazetteer, Kanyakumari* (Chennai 1995)

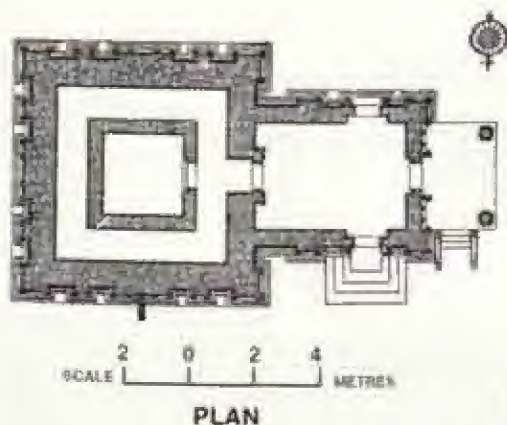


SKETCH SITE PLAN



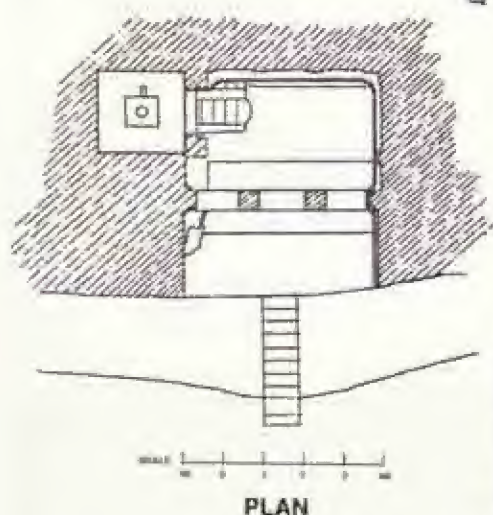
29 PARTHASARATHI AND KRISHNA TEMPLES (PARTHIVAPURAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kanyakumari; **TALUK** : Vilavancode
2. **LOCALITY** : Parthivapuram (Lat. 08° 16' N; Long. 77° 09' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : No. 2/35/76/M. Dated 24.12.1983.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kuzhithurai;
BUS STATION : Marthandam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Representing the early phase of Kerala temple architecture, the main shrine known as Parthasarathi temple is in fact a Vishnu shrine. The shrine is a classical *sandhara vimana* of the imperial Chola period (*circa* A.D. 1000).
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978), M.W. Meister (ed), *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



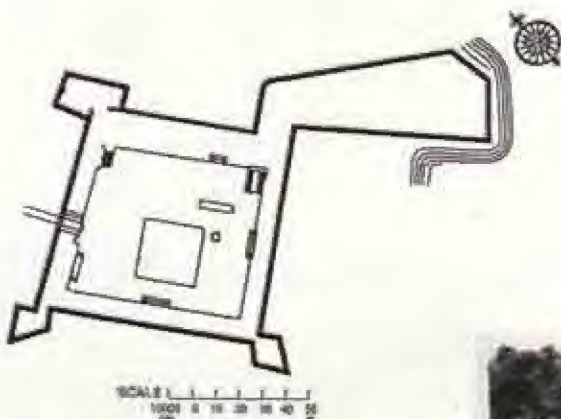
30 ROCK CUT CAVE TEMPLE (THIRUNANDIKKARE)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kanyakumari; **TALUK** : Kalkulam
2. **LOCALITY** : Thirunandikkare (Lat. 08° 10' N; Long. 77° 15' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4-38/61-C.1 Dated 02.06.1963.
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kuzhithurai;
BUS STATION : Kulasekharam.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Excavated by Vikramaditya Varaguna, the distinguished Ay king of the region in the ninth century A.D.. It is a simple Pandya model with single square sanctum placed laterally. It also represents an important centre of mural painting of that period.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Small hill surrounded by plains.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Sarkar, *An Architectural Survey of Temples of Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



31 VATTAKKOTTAI FORT (VATTAKKOTTAI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Kanyakumari; **TALUK** : Agastheeswaram
2. **LOCALITY** : Vattakkottai (Lat. 08° 20' N; Long. 77° 34' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4/20/66CA(1) Dated 20.08.1966
4. **APPROACH** : AIRPORT : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Kanyakumari;
BUS STATION : Kanyakumari.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a fort of the erstwhile Travancore state which was used by the British as a strategic point near Kanyakumari.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is located abutting the Bay of Bengal near Kanyakumari.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : V. Nagam Aiya, *The Travancore State Manual* Vol. I, (Reprint, New Delhi 1989)



31 (a) Plan of Vattakkottai fort



31 (b) Wall of Vattakkottai fort



31 (c) A seashore view of the fort



31 (d) General view of the fort

32 GROUP OF SCULPTURED DOLMENS (BANAGUDISHOLAI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Nilgiris; **TALUK** : Kottagiri
2. **LOCALITY** : Banagudisholai (Lat. 11° 24' N; Long. 76° 53' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 145 Dated 18.08.1922
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Coimbatore; **RAILWAY STATION** : Ooty; **BUS STATION** : Kottagiri.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This group of megaliths represents dolmens and draw well type. All dolmens have one side open in the eastern direction while the cists of some have sculptured orthostats.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is situated in the forested hilly region.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Not under regular worship
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : K.S. Ramachandran, *Archaeology of South India - Tamil Nadu* (New Delhi 1980).



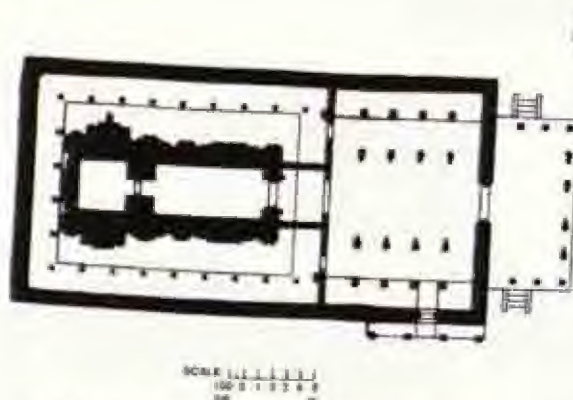
33 ANCIENT SITE (KUNNATHUR)

1. **DISTRICT** : Tirunelveli; **TALUK** : Tirunelveli
2. **LOCALITY** : Kunniathur (Lat. 08° 42' N; Long. 77° 41' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : F.4/11/39-F & L Dated 25.07.1939
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Tirunelveli;
BUS STATION: Tirunelveli.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : An archaeological unexcavated site dating from early historical period.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This site is located in the foot hills.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Part private and part government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : - - -



34 BHAKTAVATSALA TEMPLE (SERAMADEVI)

1. **DISTRICT** : Tirunelveli; **TALUK** : Ambasamudram
2. **LOCALITY** : Seramadevi (Lat. 08° 40' N; Long. 77° 35' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 61 Dated 23.06.1921
4. **APPROACH** : **AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Tirunelveli;
BUS STATION : Seramadevi.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : Known as Seramahadevi Chaturvedi Mangalam, the temple dedicated to Vishnu is datable to the twelfth century A.D. This is a complete South Indian temple complex with all its units and is a contribution of the medieval Pandyas and Cholas.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : This monument is located on the bank of the river Tamrabharani.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : H. Krishna Shastri, *South Indian Inscriptions*, Vol. V (New Delhi 1986).



34 (a) Plan of Bhaktavatsala Temple



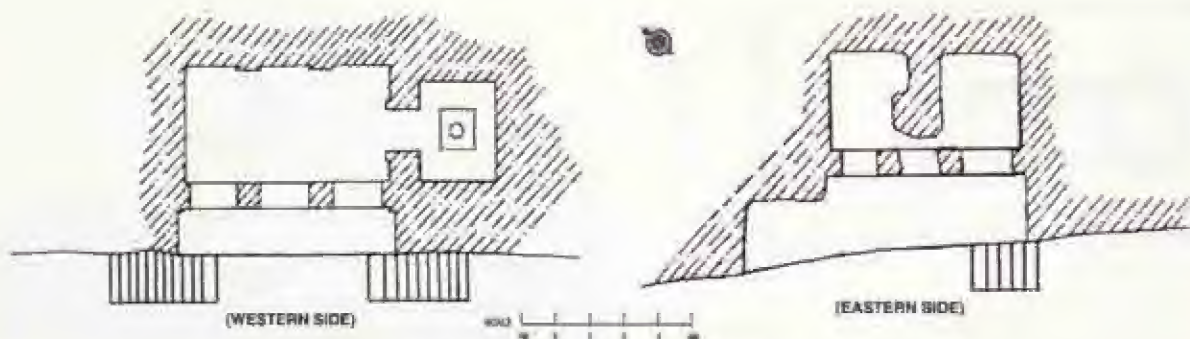
34 (b) Close view of Vimana



34 (c) General view of the temple

35 TWO ROCK CUT TEMPLES WITH INSCRIPTIONS IN VARUNACHIMALAI (THIRUMALAPURAM)

1. **DISTRICT :** Tirunelveli; **TALUK :** Sankarankoil
2. **LOCALITY :** Thirumalapuram (Lat. 08° 15' N; Long. 77° 25' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO. :** MD, 118 Dated 09.06.1922
4. **APPROACH :** AIRPORT : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION :** Kadayanallur; **BUS STATION :** Thirumalapuram.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY :** Excavated during *circa* A.D. 750, this Pandya cave temple has early specimens of Trinity figures. These figures together with those of *dvarapalas* are excellent examples of the Pandyan art.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Hilly terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Central Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : No
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : K.V. Soundara Rajan, *Art of Tamil Nadu & Kerala* (New Delhi 1978).



35 (a) Plan of Rock Cut Temples



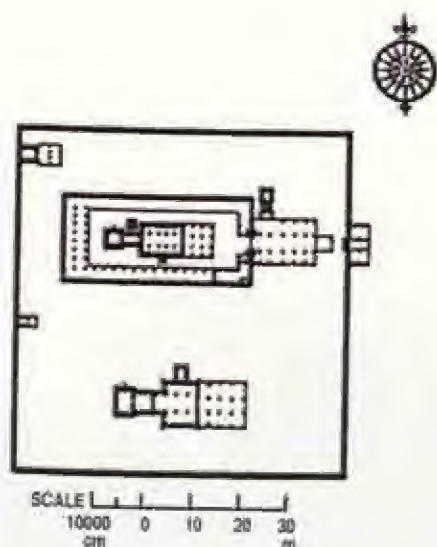
35 (c) Close view of the cave temple



35 (b) A view of the cave temple

36 VALISVARA TEMPLE (TIRUVALISVARAM)

1. **DISTRICT** : Tirunelveli; **TALUK** : Ambasamudram
2. **LOCALITY** : Tiruvalisvaram (Lat. 08° 45' N; Long. 77° 25' E)
3. **NOTIFICATION NO.** : MD, 94 Dated 02.05.1919
4. **APPROACH : AIRPORT** : Thiruvananthapuram; **RAILWAY STATION** : Tirunelveli;
BUS STATION : Ambasamudram.
5. **BRIEF HISTORY** : This is a unique temple in Pandimandalam, dedicated to Siva, with a stone *vimana* from *upana* to *stupi*. It is datable to A.D. 900-960. The temple exhibits various artistic forms of Brahmanical themes, noteworthy being the earliest Parvati in *Panchagnitapas*.
6. **TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES** : Plain terrain.
7. **OWNERSHIP** : Government
8. **IS IT UNDER RELIGIOUS USE ?** : Yes
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL** : Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Thrissur
10. **PUBLISHED REFERENCES, IF ANY** : (1) A.S. Ramanatha Ayyar, *South Indian Inscriptions*, Vol. XIV (Madras 1962), (2) M.W. Meister (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture, South India, Lower Dravidadesa* (Delhi 1983).



36 (a) Plan of Valisvara Temple



36 (b) A view of the Vimana of the main shrine



36 (c) General view of the Srikoll

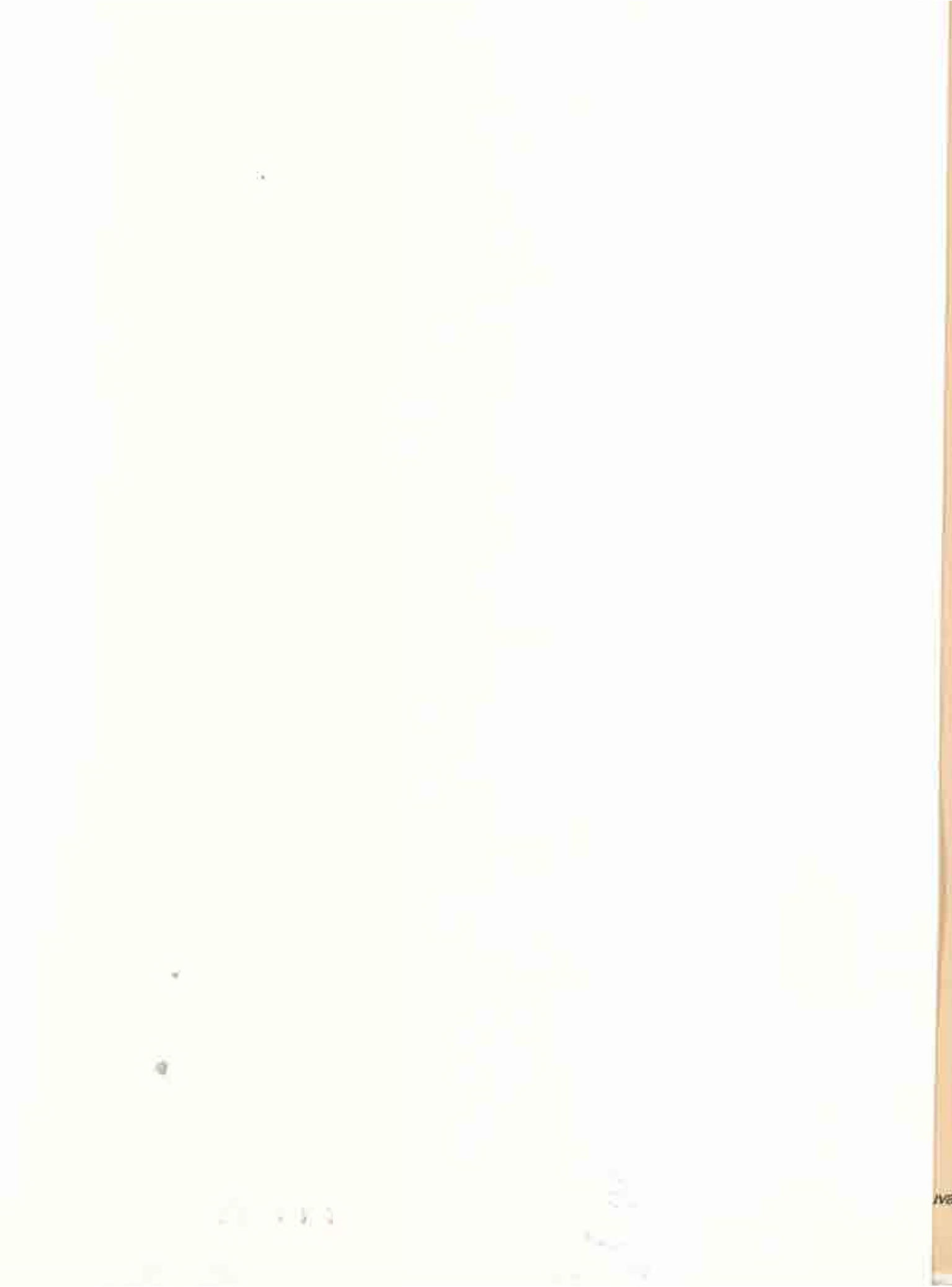


36 (d) Close view of Vimana

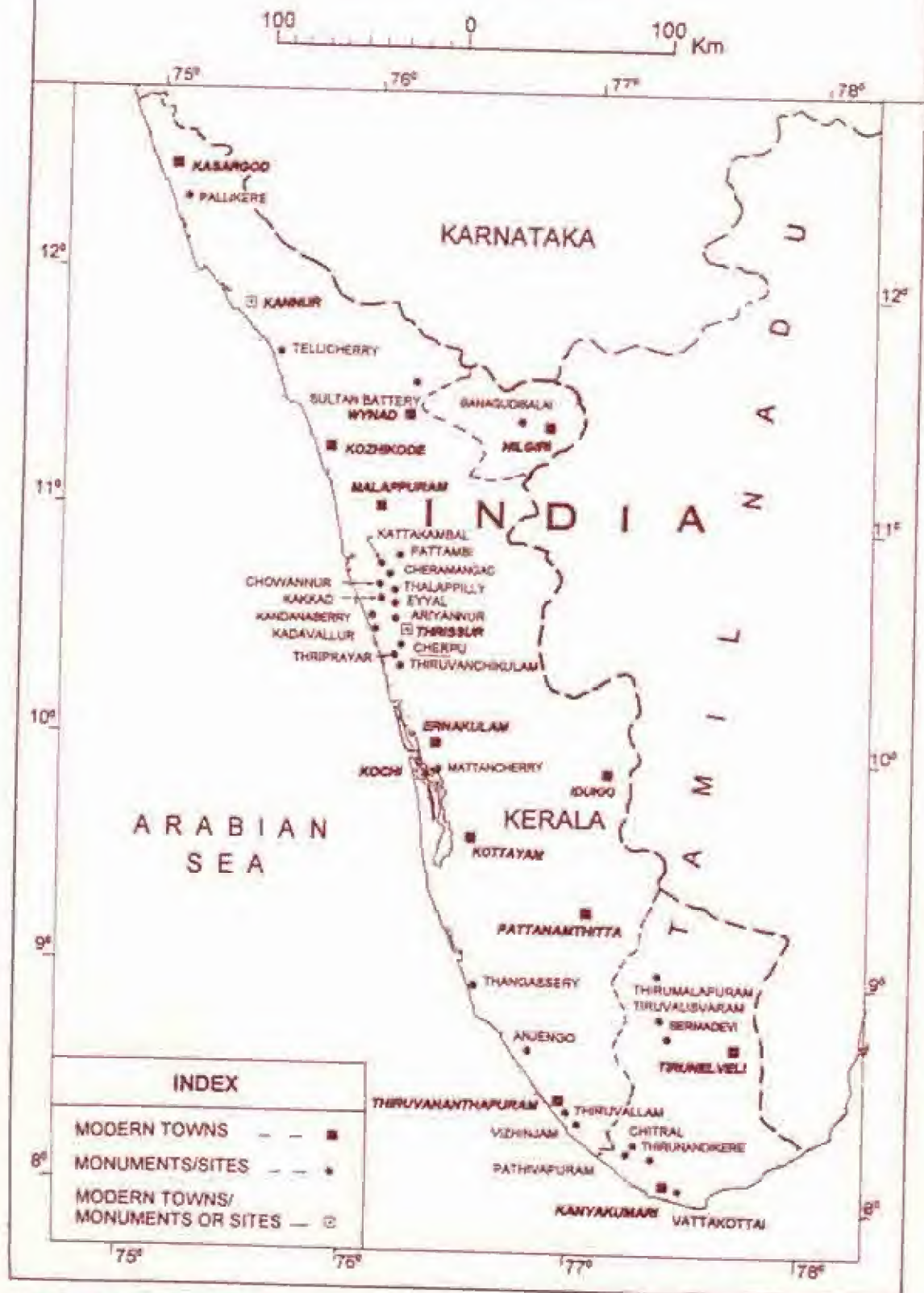


36 (e) General view of the temple





PRINCIPAL MONUMENTS AND SITES IN THRISSUR CIRCLE



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- The territorial waters of India extend in to the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Kewal Singh

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